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REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 3 and 6 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicant regards as his invention. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **September 11, 2002**.

Objection to the Title

The title has been objected to as being nondescriptive. Taking the Examiner's comments into consideration, a new title has been submitted. Entry of this new title is respectfully requested. Withdrawal of the objection to title is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Abstract

The abstract has been objected to as not being in narrative form. Taking the Examiner's comments into consideration, a substitute abstract has been submitted. Entry of this new abstract is respectfully requested. Withdrawal of the objection to the abstract is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Specification

The specification has been objected to due to informalities and a substitute specification is required. Taking the Examiner's comments into consideration, a substitute specification has been herewith supplied. No new material is added to the specification. Entry of this substitute

specification is respectfully requested. Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-6 and 9 are rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, claims 1, 3 and 9 are rejected as having terms without sufficient antecedent basis. Taking the Examiner's comments into consideration, claims 1 and 3 have been amended. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-6 and 9 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102(e)

Claims 1-4 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Yamanashi et al.

At the outset, it should be noted that Yamanashi et al. is assigned to Yazaki Corp. and, as discussed in further detail ahead, under 35 USC § 103 (c), Yamanashi et al. may not be used in an obviousness type rejection under 35 USC § 103. However, Yamanashi et al. may be used as prior art under 35 USC § 102 (e).

Yamanashi et al. describes a wiring unit (1) having a short circuiting member (23) that is inserted into bus bars (22). Terminals (62) are provided and when a connecting bar (63) is received in a electric contact portion (67), it produces elastic resistive force that impedes the insertion of the

connecting bar (63) so that the relative position of the connecting bar (63) to the electric contact portion (67) is maintained.

The present invention is an electrical connector and terminal in which projections (5) are utilized to hold a wire (40) in a connector housing (1). The projections (5) are flexible and enable the insertion of the wire (40) with minimal force.

Independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art relied upon, by reciting,

"An electrical connector comprising; a connector housing including a terminal receiving section, wherein the connector housing is provided on both side walls of a rear portion of the terminal receiving section with a pair of projections, projecting inwardly from the terminal receiving section, for holding an electric wire; and a terminal having an electrical contact portion at one end thereof for connecting to a mating terminal and an electric wire joint portion at the other end for joining to an electric wire, wherein the terminal receiving section has an extra room for allowing said electrical contact portion to move, wherein the electrical contact portion and the electric wire joint portion are connected by means of a flexible connecting part."

(Emphasis Added)

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-4 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Yamanashi et al. is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamanashi et al. in view of Weisenberger.

At the outset, it should be noted that Yamanashi et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0009919 A1) are assigned to Yazaki Corporation as is the present application, as evidenced by the assignment statement attached and the front cover of Yamanashi et al. also attached. It should also be noted that

Yamanashi et al. was published on January 24, 2002 and the filing date for the present application is October 11, 2001. Therefore, in order for Yamanashi et al. to be utilized as prior art under 35 USC §103 (a), it must qualify under 35 USC § 102 (e). In this case, it does, since this Patent was granted to another inventive entity and published after the date of invention of the present application.

Under 35 USC § 103 (c), Yamanashi et al. may **not be utilized as prior art in an obviousness type 35 USC §103 rejection** if it solely qualifies as prior art under 35 USC § 102 (e) and Yamanashi et al. and the present invention were under obligation of assignment to the same assignee. Therefore, the applicant traverses the Examiner's grounds of rejection since the reference, Yamanashi et al., relied upon in the rejection may not be used as prior art under 35 USC §103(c).

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 5-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamanashi et al. in view of Weisenberger is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1, 3 and 6, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

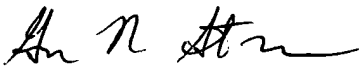
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Version with markings to show changes made
Substitute Specification w/marked-up version
Substitute Abstract of the Disclosure
Assignment Statement
Front Cover of Yamanashi et al.

H:\HOME\AWEAVER\GSTEVEN\S\01\011350\01-13-03 Amend

IN THE TITLE:

Please amend the title as indicated below:

AN ELECTRICAL CONNECTOR AND TERMINAL CONNECTED VIA A
FLEXIBLE CONNECTION

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 3 and 6 as follows:

1. (Amended) An electrical connector comprising;

a connector housing including a terminal receiving [sections] section, wherein the connector housing is provided on both side walls of a rear portion of the terminal receiving section with a pair of projections, projecting inwardly from the terminal receiving section, for holding an electric wire;

and

a terminal having an electrical contact portion at one end thereof for connecting to a mating terminal and an electric wire joint portion at the other end for joining to an electric wire, wherein the terminal receiving section has an extra room for allowing said electrical contact portion to move, wherein the electrical contact portion and the electric wire joint portion are connected by means of a flexible connecting part.

3. (Amended) The electrical connector according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said flexible connecting part is provided, [at the] on both sides, with a couple of cutouts and the width of said

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connecting part is narrower than that of the bottom base plates of the electrical contact portion and that of the electric wire joint portion.

6. (Amended) The electrical connector according to claim [5] 1, wherein the pair of projections are flexible in a radial direction of the electric wire.